

STATION 31 UPDATE NOVEMBER 21, 2003

PREZANT TESTING OF STATION 31

The following is a summary of tests results from Prezant Associates on Station 31. You will find complete results by viewing the **Prezant Test Results 11/21/03** on this Web site.

Air Testing for known carcinogens (Table 1)

Results show tested carcinogens were well below recommended exposure limits.

Air tests for other known health hazards (Table 2)

Overall, test results in this category were within or below normal limits. However, tests for indoor carbon dioxide, temperature and humidity indicate elevated levels, which are due to ventilation and temperature control issues at the station. These test results do not represent health hazards. Additionally, tests showed increased bacterial levels, which are indicative of excess moisture in the building. More study about the bacteria is necessary before a conclusion can be made about health effects. Tests showed virtually no indication of airborne lead at the station.

Test methods for other known health hazards (Table 3)

There were higher than normal levels of lead found in the soil in two rooms of the basement. Lead was also discovered on the walls in several rooms in the basement. As noted in Table 2, there is no risk of inhaling lead at the station. Prezant recommends the following actions regarding the lead in the basement:

- Restricting access to the uncovered soil in the basement until soil is covered
- Wash hands after any contact to the soil in the basement
- Additional tests to determine if there lead on the walls of other areas in the station
- Planning for eventual mitigation of the lead in conjunction with renovation of the station.

Test results for Ionizing Radiation (Table 4)

The results indicate that the radiation received by a firefighter stationed in Fire Station 31 would be approximately the same as a person living in a red brick house in Seattle. These levels are also well below OSHA occupational health standards for radiation exposure. The actual dose received by a firefighter would be less, since a portion of their time during work is outside the station, where outdoor levels would apply. Therefore, Prezant reported that there is no reason for any precautions regarding radiation at the firehouse.

MEDICAL TESTING ADVISORY PANEL

Currently, the panel is in the process of researching and developing the educational information for Station 31 members, namely a list of appropriate medical tests for the

identified health concerns. The panel will meet again in early January to review the results of the Prezant Industrial Hygiene Study and to determine next steps.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY ADVISORY PANEL

Work is underway to develop a computerized database of people who have worked at Station 31 since the station opened in January of 1975. Station 31 logs and other data sources are being used to collect this information. This is a huge effort, requiring the coordination of a number of city departments. Data collection is expected to be complete in about a month. The data will then be matched with the Washington State Cancer Registry in an analysis to compare cancer incidence in Station 31 members with the general population. While the database is being built, the epidemiology panel is identifying who will conduct the analysis. After the data is ready, the analysis and results interpretation should be complete by February.